AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace Paragraph [0025] with the following paragraph that has been rewritten in amendment format:

[0025]   Primary storage node 90 is host writable such that it can accept writes (as shown by path 91 in Fig. 5A) from another entity, e.g., a host entity (not illustrated in Fig. 2, but see item 602 in Fig. 4A as discussed below), that uses secondary storage node 102 as a synchronous backup. Alternatively, primary storage node 90 can receive writes forwarded downstream by an upstream storage node. Secondary, tertiary and quaternary storage nodes 100, 110 and 120 are not normally host-writable (or, in other words, normally run in a host-read-only mode). Rather, they are writable by the immediately upstream storage nodes, namely: quaternary storage node 120 is writable by tertiary storage node 110; tertiary storage node 110 is writable by secondary storage node 100; and secondary storage node 100 is writable by primary storage node 90.